

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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SEN. SCHAUER ANNOUNCES SOUTH CENTRAL MICHIGAN WORKS! AGENCY TO RECEIVE MORE THAN \$126,000 FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING GRANTS

LANSING – State Sen. Mark Schauer (D-Calhoun, Jackson counties) announces that the South Central Michigan Works! Agency, which comprises Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee counties, will receive more than \$126,000 in funding to help adults find employment in order to retain their food stamp eligibility. The funding is designated for adults ages 18-50 who are able to work and do not have dependents.

“Many of our unemployed have been without work for so long that they’ve exhausted their savings and are struggling to make ends meet in addition to spending hours every day looking for steady employment,” Schauer said. “This funding will help many people alleviate the double hardship of finding a decent meal while looking for a decent job.”

In the past, able bodied, single citizens lost their food stamp support when they were unemployed for an extended period of time. The grant award expands the job seeker’s options so that program participants may count job seeking activities and job training as legitimate ways to maintain food stamp assistance, while at the same time participating in meaningful job search and work readiness activities.

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The grant funding comes from the Michigan Dept. of Career Development's Food Assistance Employment and Training Program, which is administered by 25 locally governed Michigan Works! agencies and Workforce Development boards throughout the state. The work participation requirements can be met by participating in self-initiated community service through the Family Independence Agency or referral to the Michigan Works! agencies for employment services.

For more information about the Michigan Dept. of Career Development, visit its web site at: www.michigan.gov/mdcd

For more information about the South Central Michigan Works! Agency, visit its web site at: <http://www.michiganworks.org> and click on the South Central link or call (517) 437-0990.

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Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.